

Pursuing God In Prayer

"The Power Of A Whisper", Part 5 of 7
Pastor Vince DiPaola

"Pray that the LORD your God will tell us where we should go and what we should do." (Jeremiah 42:3, NIV)

I) THE PROBLEM: MAKING TIME FOR PRAYER

"Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.' He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.' Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.' Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. 'Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?' he asked Peter. 'Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.' The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." (Matthew 26:36-41, NIV)

*To hear God speak, we must make ___PRAYER A PRIORITY__.

II) THE PRACTICE: PRAYING TO KNOW GOD

*To hear God speak, we must make ___PRAYER A PURSUIT__.

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." (Colossians 4:2, NIV)

"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him." (James 1:5, NIV)

Powerful Prayer Pursuits That Help You Hear From God

1) Pray that God will continue to help you _KNOW HIM BETTER_.

"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better." (Ephesians 1:17, NIV)

*Why? Knowing God better leads to ___HEARING HIM BETTER__.

2) Pray that God will help you grasp the ___HOPE OF HEAVEN__.

"I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe." (Ephesians 1:18-19a, NIV)

*Why? Having hope prepares you to ___ANTICIPATE HIS WHISPERS__.

3) Pray that God will increasingly fill you with _HIS DEEP LOVE_.

"And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." (Ephesians 3:17b-19, NIV)

*Why? God's love provides confidence to ___KNOW HIS WHISPERS__.

4) Pray that God will motivate you to _HEAR & OBEY HIS WORD_.

"Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should." (Ephesians 6:19-20, NIV)

*Why? Trusting God will speak ___OPENS YOU UP TO HIS WHISPERS_.

Lakeshore Community Church

October 16, 2011 (S187-874)